

AUG 23 2016

EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

We do not need the EPA to make a ten-mile stretch of the Willamette River a construction zone for a decade or more. The river serves as a great source of recreation for my family and many others. We enjoy activities like riding the sternwheeler on the river. It promotes tourism and is a business-generating area. Small businesses, restaurants, and shops all line the area and would be disproportionately affected by this project. I understand the need to clean up the contaminants in the riverbed. However, costly, large-scale dredging operations on the riverbed like the EPA is currently proposing, are not the best way to accomplish this goal.

The Willamette River has been shown to be healing itself through natural restoration. It's dangerous to dig up large portions of the riverbed and unearth new problems, and I don't want us to do that. It could contaminate the river in other areas. It's expensive and it could expose workers to hazardous conditions. The \$746 million the EPA is proposing to spend on the project would be better used creating jobs and other positive things for the community.

The money to complete this project will be taken from revenues coming from taxpayers and business owners. I am an engineer and currently looking for work. I can't afford higher taxes or utility costs, and I'm sure I'm not the only one in this situation. This project fails to take into account any of the restoration that has taken place, and such a refusal ignores what is best for the citizens, especially those who rely on the Willamette River and revenues generated from the port.

The Army Corps of Engineers encourages the use of heavy dredging only as a last resort when other less-invasive methods aren't working. We can see that natural restoration has been working well, with the most recent studies of the river in 2014 estimating a reduction in contamination of 40 percent. The EPA has not considered this information in their plans for restoring the river.

It would not be good for the overall economy. We don't need to lose more jobs and businesses to this project. Other areas have been in similar situations, and they haven't been subjected to such harsh standards for cleanup. Do not move forward with this project as is. We don't need to reinvent the wheel. If the EPA uses a plan based on bad information, then the execution of that plan will be a waste of money. The EPA needs to listen to residents' concerns and draft a new proposal that includes the updated contamination level information and the least invasive format for cleaning up the Willamette.

Sincerely

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